

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04036 020556Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 HA-05 EUR-12 OES-09 /044 W
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R 020512Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6013
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
CINCPAC HONOLULU
DEA ELPASO
DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 04036

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, NZ, FJ
SUBJECT: HEROIN SEIZURE AND ARREST IN FIJI (GFYC-75-8006)

REF: SUVA 1297 (NOTAL)

1. NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (NDIB)
IS HIGHLY INTERESTED IN DRUG SEIZURE AND COURIER ARREST
IN NADI ON JULY 21, REPORTED REFTEL. AT REQUEST OF
FIJIAN CUSTOMS, GNZ SENT TWO POLICEMEN AND ONE CUSTOMS
OFFICER TO NADI TO ASSIST FIJIAN INVESTIGATION OF THE
CASE. REPORTS THAT SEIZURE INCLUDED UPWARDS OF TWO
KILO OF HEROIN AND THAT IT WAS DESTINED FOR NEW ZEALAND
HAS GREATLY CONCERNED NDIB.

2. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS BEEN ADVISED BY NDIB THAT:

(A) CHRISTINA DOREEN SKIPPER (V) IS ALIAS AND COURIER
IS ACTUALLY NZ CITIZEN SUSAN FLORENCE RENNIE (V), KNOWN
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TO NDIB AS A FREQUENT CHARACTER IN NZ DRUG SCENE.
RENNIE HAS RECENTLY BEEN USING AUSTRALIAN ADDRESSES.

(B) RENNIE PLEADED NOT GUILTY AT FIJIAN TRIAL LAST WEEK
TO CHARGE OF TRAFFICKING. SHE WAS REPORTEDLY FOUND GUILTY
AND CONVICTED. SENTENCING IS EXPECTED AUGUST 3. (SUVA
MAY HAVE LATER INFO.)

(C) NDIB HAS DETAILED ONE POLICEMAN TO REMAIN IN NADI AND, IN COOPERATION WITH FIJIAN POLICE, TO KEEP RENNIE UNDER SURVEILLANCE. DESPITE MINISCULE \$500 BAIL SET BY JUDGE, RENNIE'S PASSPORT WAS LIFTED AND NDIB CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY RENNIE CAN ABSCOND.

(D) NDIB IS SATISFIED ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF DRUGS WAS NZ AND IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING EXTRADITION OF RENNIE TO NEW ZEALAND TO FACE CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY TO TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (SAME DRUGS AS THOSE SEIZED IN NADI) IN NZ. IF RENNIE IS EXTRADITED, TWO OTHERS CURRENTLY IN NZ MAY ALSO BE ARRESTED ON CONSPIRACY CHARGE TO STAND TRIAL WITH RENNIE. NDIB IS CONCERNED THAT FIJIAN SENTENCE MAY BE ONLY FINE, IN WHICH EVENT CASE AGAINST RENNIE MAY NOT YET BE SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED TO ENABLE IMMEDIATE EXTRADITION.

3. COMMENT: NDIB REACTION TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMOUNT OF HEROIN SEIZED SEEMED ALMOST PURPOSELY VAGUE. IT MAY BE, THEREFORE, THAT ACTUAL AMOUNT OF SEIZED HEROIN IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE 4-5 LBS. VARIOUSLY REPORTED. FIJIAN POLICE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ANALYSE HEROIN OR TO ESTABLISH PURITY LEVELS. TOTAL SEIZURE WILL BE BROUGHT TO WELLINGTON BY NDIB FOR CLOSER EXAMINATION AFTER STATUTORY LAPSE OF ONE MONTH FROM CONCLUSION OF TJCAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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NDIB WILL KEEP NARCOTICS COORDINATOR INFORMED OF CASE DEVELOPMENT.
SELDEN

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